

View from Running Water Alternative A2





View from Running Water Alternative A3 - Callout





View from Running Water Alternative A3





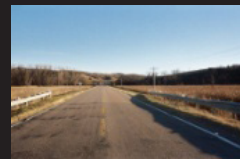
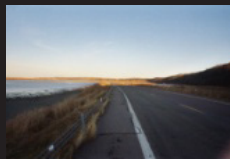
View from Running Water Alternative B1 - Callout





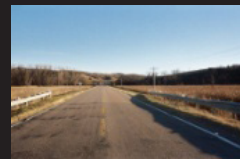
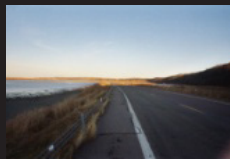
View from Running Water Alternative B I





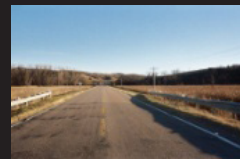
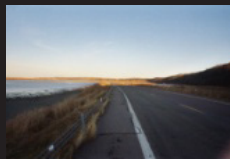
View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge East Existing Conditions - Callout





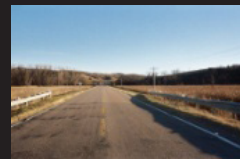
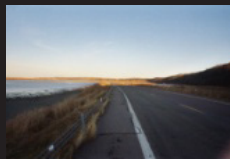
View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge East Existing Conditions





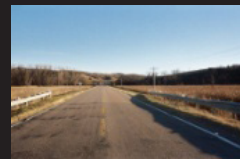
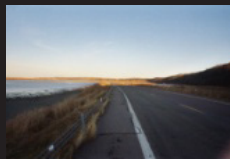
View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge East Alternative A2 - Callout





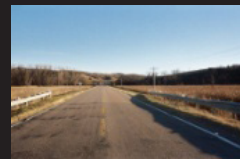
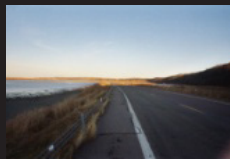
View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge East Alternative A2





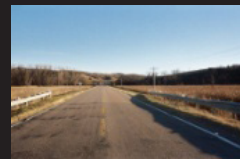
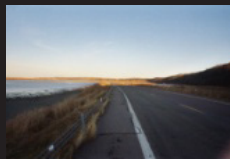
View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge East Alternative A3 - Callout





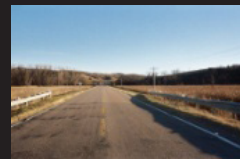
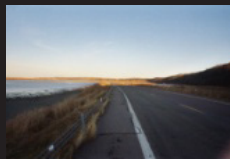
View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge East Alternative A3





View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge East Alternative B1 - Callout





View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge East Alternative B I





View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge West Existing Conditions - Callout





View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge West Existing Conditions





View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge West Alternative A2 - Callout





View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge West Alternative A2





View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge West Alternative A3 - Callout





View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge West Alternative A3





View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge West Alternative B1 - Callout





View from Chief Standing Bear Bridge West Alternative B I





View from Niobrara State Park Group Lodge Existing Conditions - Callout





View from Niobrara State Park Group Lodge Existing Conditions





View from Niobrara State Park Group Lodge Alternative A2 - Callout





View from Niobrara State Park Group Lodge Alternative A2





View from Niobrara State Park Group Lodge Alternative A3 - Callout





View from Niobrara State Park Group Lodge Alternative A3





View from Niobrara State Park Group Lodge Alternative B1 - Callout





View from Niobrara State Park Group Lodge Alternative B I





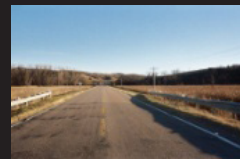
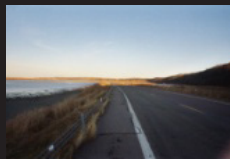
View from Niobrara State Park High Point Existing Conditions - Callout





View from Niobrara State Park High Point Existing Conditions





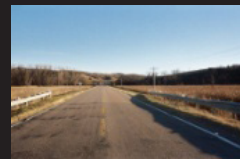
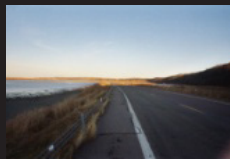
View from Niobrara State Park High Point Alternative A2 - Callout





View from Niobrara State Park High Point Alternative A2





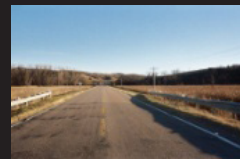
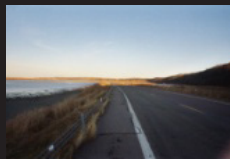
View from Niobrara State Park High Point Alternative A3 - Callout





View from Niobrara State Park High Point Alternative A3





View from Niobrara State Park High Point Alternative B1 - Callout





View from Niobrara State Park High Point Alternative B I



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ATTACHMENT C

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CRITERIA

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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha Nebraska 68102-4226



November 9, 2012

Ms. Becky Latka
Project Manager
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha District Headquarters
1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 9000
Omaha, Nebraska 68128

Dear Ms. Latka:

The National Park Service (NPS) reviewed the visual renderings submitted to us on September 19, 2012, for the proposed Nebraska State Highway 12 Project (Project) in Knox County, Nebraska. The NPS found the computer-generated renderings of alternative highway locations placed on the landscape very helpful in analyzing potential visual impacts of the Project alternatives on the NPS-administered Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (Trail).

The outstanding scenic characteristics of the Missouri River and surrounding landscape in the Project area draw many visitors to the MNRR and Trail. These visitors are sensitive to the aesthetics that contribute to their experience. Under the Organic Act, the NPS is charged with conserving and providing for the enjoyment of the scenery within the areas it administers for current and future generations. In addition, MNRR and the Trail each have individual visual resource management objectives stemming from the legislation under which they were created.

The NPS made preliminary determinations of visual impact from each Key Observation Point (KOP) for each Project alternative, based on consideration of MNRR and Trail visitor sensitivities and our review of the visual renderings. The NPS defined three levels of visual impact to analyze the Project alternatives:

- **High Impact (3)**

Likely to cause a substantial long-term and negative effect on scenic quality, an existing viewshed, or KOP due to the visual contrast between the proposed project and the existing landscape conditions.

- **Moderate Impact (2)**

Likely to cause a noticeable, but not substantial change in scenic quality due to the visual contrast between the proposed project and the existing landscape conditions. Such a change would be noticeable to a sensitive viewer, but not all viewers.



- **Low/No Impact (1)**

Likely to cause no change or a negligible change in scenic quality due to the visual contrast between the proposed project and the existing landscape conditions.

An interdisciplinary team of the MNRR and Trail staff reviewed the visual renderings prepared for the Project. For each KOP, the team compared the existing condition rendering to each Project alternative rendering and dialogued regarding individuals' perceptions of an alternative's visual impact at each site. Each KOP was assigned a level of visual impact based on group consensus. The results are presented in the table below:

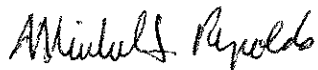
Nebraska Highway 12 Project Visual Impact Assessment

KOP	Level of Visual Impact by Alternative		
	Parallel	Base of Bluffs	Bluffs
	A2	A3	B1
Bazile Wildlife Management Area	2	1	1
Missouri River Channel East	1	1	3
Missouri River Channel West	1	1	3
Running Water	3	1	3
Chief Standing Bear Bridge East	3	1	3
Chief Standing Bear Bridge West	1	2	3
Niobrara State Park Group Lodge	1	1	3
Niobrara State Park High Point	1	1	2

The NPS appreciates the time and effort the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has devoted to developing a visual impact analysis for the Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We hope our assessment informs USACE and the public of potential visual impacts to these sensitive areas and leads to consideration of ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our visual impact determinations, please contact Steven Mietz, Superintendent, Missouri National Recreational River at 605-665-0209 or at Steven_Mietz@nps.gov; or, Dan Wiley, Chief of Resources Stewardship, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail at 402-661-1830 or at Dan_Wiley@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Reynolds
Regional Director